

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(11)Publication number : 2002-371005  
(43)Date of publication of application : 26.12.2002

(51)Int.Cl. A61K 38/00  
A61K 48/00  
A61P 25/00  
A61P 43/00  
C12N 15/09  
// C07K 14/47  
C12N 5/06

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(54) Numb PROTEIN EXPRESSION INHIBITOR BY Musashi

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a Numb protein expression inhibitor usable as a therapeutic agent for various kinds of diseases of central nerve system since Musashi protein has a new function, namely controls expression of Numb protein having neuron differentiation regulatory function and enhances activity of Notch information transmission system.  
SOLUTION: This Numb protein expression inhibitor comprises a Musashi protein, a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence (reference to the specification) in which one or a plurality of amino acid sequences of Musashi protein are substituted, deleted, added or inserted or a gene encoding these polypeptides as an active ingredient.

## LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 16.08.2002

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number] 3566941

[Date of registration] 18.06.2004

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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## CLAIMS

## [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The Numb protein manifestation inhibitor which makes an active principle the gene to which 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein and the Musashi protein carries out the code of a permutation, deletion, the polypeptides in which it has the amino acid sequence added or inserted, or those polypeptides.

[Claim 2] The Notch signal transduction activity enhancement agent which makes an active principle the gene to which 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein and the Musashi protein carries out the code of a permutation, deletion, the polypeptides in which it has the amino acid sequence added or inserted, or those polypeptides.

[Claim 3] The neural stem cell growth activity enhancement agent which makes an active principle the gene to which 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein and the Musashi protein carries out the code of a permutation, deletion, the polypeptides in which it has the amino acid sequence added or inserted, or those polypeptides.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention controls the manifestation of Numb protein which has a neurone differentiation accommodation function and Notch antagonism, and relates to physic useful as a remedy of the disease based on the abnormalities of a Notch signal transduction system, and a neural stem cell growth activity enhancement agent.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] It is known that Numb protein (Wakamatsu et al. and Neuron 23 (1999):71-81) will check the signal transfer cascade of Notch protein required for the self-renewal activity of a mammals central-nerves cell stem cell (Ohtsuka et al. EMBO J.18 (1999):2196-2207 and Nakamura et al. J.Neurosci.20(2000):283-293).

[0003] And the signal transduction system through Notch protein is participating in the self-renewal of a neural stem cell, survival, etc.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] Paying attention to the Musashi protein (Musashi) with which it is known that it will be strongly discovered to the stem cell of a mammalian \*\*\*\*\* system, the place which has considered the function, this invention person has that the Musashi protein controls the manifestation of Numb protein by the translate phase, and the operation which reinforces the activity of Notch signal transduction further, and found out that it was useful as a remedy of the disease based on the abnormalities of Notch signal transduction activity.

Moreover, when this invention person inquired using the animal which made the Musashi protein gene suffer a loss in order to consider the function of the Musashi protein, he came to complete a header and this invention for the Musashi protein reinforcing the growth activity of a neural stem cell.

[0005] That is, this invention offers the Numb protein manifestation inhibitor which makes an active principle the gene to which 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein and the Musashi protein carries out the code of a permutation, deletion, the polypeptides in which it has the amino acid sequence added or inserted, or those polypeptides. Moreover, this invention offers the Notch signal transduction activity enhancement agent which makes an active principle the gene to which 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein and the Musashi protein carries out the code of a permutation, deletion, the polypeptides in which it has the amino acid sequence added or inserted, or those polypeptides.

[0006]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The Musashi protein which is the medicinal active principle of this invention is RNA joint protein strongly discovered by the mammalian central nervous system stem cell. And it is known that there are two, Musashi 1 (Musashi [1] or Msi1) and Musashi 2 (Musashi [2] or Msi2), in the Musashi protein (Sakakibara, S et al., Dev.Biol.176(1996):230-242).

Especially Musashi 1 (Msi1) is desirable among such Musashi protein.

[0007] Although it is also separable from the cell in which it exists, since cloning of the gene which carries out the code of the Musashi protein has already been carried out, such Musashi protein may use a DNA recombination technique, i.e., the expression vector prepared using the gene concerned, and may prepare it using the cell which carried out the transformation.

[0008] Moreover, although the protein itself discovered by the neural stem cell was sufficient as the Musashi protein, as long as it had the same property, some of the amino acid sequences could be changed. For example, 1 or the plurality of the amino acid sequence of the Musashi protein can also use the polypeptide which has a permutation, deletion, and the amino acid sequence added or inserted. Extent and those locations of these permutations, deletion, addition, or insertion will not be restricted especially if the changed amino acid sequence has the Musashi protein and the same property. These alteration polypeptides as well as the Musashi protein can be prepared with a DNA recombination technique.

[0009] Moreover, the gene which carries out the code of the Musashi protein or the above-mentioned alteration polypeptide may be prescribed for the patient, and the protein concerned or an alteration polypeptide may be made to generate in a body.

[0010] As shown in the after-mentioned example, it combines with mRNA of a mammalian numb gene, and the Musashi protein adjusts numb gene expression by the translate phase, and controls the manifestation of Numb protein. Moreover, as a result of controlling the manifestation of Numb protein, the activity of Notch signal transduction is reinforced by the manifestation of the Musashi protein. Therefore, the Musashi protein is useful as the self-renewal of the disease based on the abnormalities of a Notch signal transduction system, i.e., a neural stem cell, and/or a remedy of survival incompetence. Moreover, in the neural stem cell of the Msi1 genetic-defect mouse origin, if Msi2 gene expression is decreased, since new loss fair organization potency decreases remarkably, the Musashi protein will reinforce the growth activity of a neural stem cell.

[0011] In order to medicate the mammals including Homo sapiens with the physic of this invention, the support pharmacologically permitted by said active principle can be added, and it can consider as the physic constituent of various administration gestalten. As this administration gestalt, the pharmaceutical preparation for injection is desirable. Moreover, as support permitted pharmacologically, distilled water, a solubilizing agent, a stabilizing agent, an emulsifier, a buffer, etc. are mentioned. Moreover, the dose of these physic is 0.1micro about g-10mg/day as an amount of Musashi protein, although it changes with a disease, sex, weights, etc.

[0012]

[Example] Next, although an example is given and this invention is explained to a detail, thereby, this invention is not limited at all.

[0013] In order to prepare the Msi1 fusion protein (Msi1-2TR) of the preparation mouse of an example 1A, ingredient and approach (1) Msi1 fusion protein, a part of coding region (equivalent to amino acid residue 7-192) of musashi-1 cDNA was inserted in the pET21a expression vector (Novagene), and plasmid vector pET21 a-msi12TR was built. This plasmid was introduced into Escherichia coli BL21 (DE3) / pLysS, and was amplified. A manifestation and affinity purification of fusion protein were performed by the approach of reference (Kaneko et al., Dev.Neurosci.22 (2000):138-152).

[0014] (2) Selection of the selection RNA of RNA which is the ligand of Msi1 was fundamentally performed by the approach of reference (Buckanovich et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 17 (1997):1197-1204, Tsai et al., Nucleic Acids Res.19(1991):4931-4936). The oligonucleotide (5'-GGGAAGATCGACCAGAG-N50-TATGTGGTCTACATGGATCCTCA-3') which sandwiches the random arrangement of 50bp(s) between primer bonding sites was compounded by the DNA synthesizer (Nissinbo). This oligonucleotide was amplified by the PCR method using a forward primer (5'-CGGAATTCTTAATCGACTCACTATAGGAAGATCTCGACGAAG-3') and reverse primer (5'-TGAGGATCCATGTAGACGCACATA-3') including T7 promoter array. Library DNA was imprinted by in vitro using T7 RNA polymerase and [alpha-32P] UTP (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). Obtained RNA was added in the column filled up with nickel affinity resin. This column was made to absorb the purification Msi1 fusion protein which has the histidine tag of 100micro

beforehand, 0.5M LiCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl [pH7.5], and 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> were used for binding buffer. Next, a bead is washed by binding buffer of 10 ml, Association RNA was eluted from the column in elution buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl [pH7.5], 1M imidazole), and the phenol extracted it, and it was settled by ethanol. cDNA obtained by carrying out reverse transcription of this RNA with the reverse transcriptase (Gibco BRL) of a MORONI murine leukemia virus was used for PCR. 15 cycle dead DNA was amplified for [ 94-degree-C ] 1 minute, for [ 59-degree-C ] 1 minute, and for [ 72-degree-C ] 1 minute using the above-mentioned forward and the primer of reverse. The PCR product was used for next RNA selection. After repeating the above procedure further 7 times and performing it, subcloning of the magnification product was carried out to pUC119 vector (Clontech), the secondary structure of RNA --- the program of the commercial array analysis software DNASIS (Hitachi Software Engineering Inc.) --- using it --- Zuker-Stiegler --- it predicted by law.

[0015] (3) The gel shifting method gel shifting method changes the amount of Msi1 fusion protein, and is 16, it carried out using the KNET buffer solution of mul (Levine et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 13 (1993):3494-3504). The 32P indicator selection RNA ligand (S8-13 and S8-19) of 10,000 counts (about 4 fmol) was added to the solution containing Msi1 fusion protein per minute. In the contention trial, the non-indicator RNA was added before 32P indicator RNA addition. The sample of protein and RNA was gently put on the room temperature for 30 minutes, and it was made to equilibrate it. After incubation, mixed liquor was immediately added to 8% or 15% of polyacrylamide gel (0.5xTris-boric-acid-EDTA buffer solution, 5% glycerol), and it dissociated by electrophoresis. Gel was dried and the XAR autoradiography film was exposed (Kodak).

[0016] (4) The Msi1 protein of perfect length in which the m-numb gene carried out in vitro joint 3' trial [35S] methionine indicator using UTR was prepared by in vitro linked transcription translation using the reticulocyte solution (Promega) containing plasmid vector pSETb-msi1 (Sakakibara et al., Dev.Biol., 176 (1996):230-242), pET21 a-msi12TR, pSETb-C17 (C terminal one half), and T7 RNA polymerase. Msi1 protein kept it warm for 30 minutes with m-numb RNA which carried out the indicator by biotin-14-CPT in binding buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl [pH8.0], 0.05% NP-40, 0.1% sodium azide). Next, the mixed liquor of Msi1 and m-numb RNA was added in the streptavidin-agarose bead beforehand re-suspended in binding buffer. The bead was washed 5 times by 1ml binding buffer. The bead pellet was re-suspended in sodium-dodecyl-sulfate-polyacrylamide-gel-electrophoresis (for SDS-PAGE) addition liquid, and carried out centrifuge after ebullition for 5 minutes. Supernatant liquid was added to SDS polyacrylamide gel 15%, and it dissociated by electrophoresis. Gel was dried after electrophoresis and the Fuji RX-U film was exposed at -80 degrees C for 1.5 to 8 hours.

[0017] (5) A cell culture and in vivo joint trial NIH The 3T3 cell was cultivated using the Dulbecco alteration Eagle's medium (Nissui) which added the calf serum 10%. The petri dish (Falcon) of 60 mm was used for culture (106 cells / petri dish). On the next day, Effective transfection reagent (Qiagen) was used as drawing 11, and the Msi1 manifestation construct (pcDNA3-FLAGMsi1HAT, pcDNA3-FLAGMsi1mutRIHAT, pcDNA3-FLAGMsi1) of 1microg was introduced into it at the cell. Two days after, the introductory cell was suspended and homogenized to the NET-Triton buffer solution of 1 ml, and it carried out centrifugal with the minute amount centrifuge. Coprecipitation of the Msi1-RNA complex which attached the histidine affinity tag (HAT) contained in supernatant liquid was carried out to Talon resin (Clontech) under existence of a RNase inhibitor (Promega) (0.5U/mul). Extract of RNA which precipitated, processing by DNaseI, and reverse transcription were performed by the approach of reference (Backkanovich et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 17 (1999):3194-3201). Then, a specific primer (5' - ATGAGCAAGCAGTGTTCCTGG-3' and 5' - CAAGTAGCTGCAACTGGCTGG-3') is used for a m-numb gene. On condition that 94-degree-C 30-second and 60-degree-C 30 seconds, and 72-degree-C 32 cycles of 30 seconds Moreover, a specific primer (5' - CTTCCTCCCTGGAGAGAGCTATGAGC-3' and 5' - GCCTAGAGCACTTCGGGTGCACG-3') is used for beta-actin. PCR was performed on condition that 94-degree-C 30-second and 60-degree-C 30 seconds, and 72-degree-C 25 cycles of 30 seconds.

[0018] (6) Quantum NIH of the reporter assay using luciferase, and the reporter mRNA by the

Northern ELISA system A 3T3 cell (per trial 3x10<sup>5</sup> cells / ml) The firefly luciferase reporter vector of 0.2microg, UMISHITAKE (Renilla) luciferase vector pRL-TK for contrast of 20ng (Toyo Ink), With pEGFP-N3 vector (Clontech) of 0.3microg pcDNA3 vector (Invitrogen), pcDNA3-T7Msi1, or pcDNA3-T7Msi1mutRI expression vector is combined (as a whole 1.5microg). It introduced using Eugene 6 transfection reagent (Roche). After keeping it warm for two days, the cell was dissolved in lysis buffer for luciferase reporter assays (Toyo Ink), Firefly luciferase (reporter) activity and Renilla luciferase activity (contrast) were measured in Berthold Lumat LB9507 RUMINO meter in the reaction substrate mixed liquor which came to hand from the manufacturer. A reporter's luciferase value was standardized based on the ratio which broke a reporter's luciferase activity expressed with the amount of relative luminescence by Renilla luciferase activity which is contrasted.

[0019] NIH The 3T3 cell was introduced and cultivated by above-mentioned reporter assay. Cells were collected two days after and the total RNA was extracted using the Trizol reagent (Gibco BRL). The Northern enzyme joint immune absorbance assay (ELISA) system (Rosh Diagnostics) performed the quantum of en HANSUDO green fluorescence protein (EGFP) RNA as contrast with the quantum of the reporter luciferase RNA after DNaseI processing using RNA of 2microeach g. PCR which used the digoxigenin-11-2'-deoxyuridine-3 phosphoric acid as a substrate, and used the plasmid DNA (pGV-P2; Promega, pEGFP-N3:Clontech) of 10ng(s) as mold was performed in preparation of the probe for digoxigenin indicator detection. It considers as 94-degree-C 30-second and 52-degree-C 30 seconds, and 72-degree-C 25 times of cycles of 30 seconds (the last elongation reaction for 2 minutes), and conditions are Ex Taq. DNA polymerase (Takara), the luciferase gene specific primer, and the EGFP specific primer were used. The forward primer of a luciferase gene made 5'-GAGGTCCTATGATTATGTCGG-3' and a reverse primer 5'-GTTGGAGCAAGATGGATTCC-3', and the forward primer of EGFP made 5'-CAGAGAAGCGCATCAAGG-3' and a reverse primer 5'-TGCTCAGGTAGTGGTTGTCG-3'. NIH The manifestation level of luciferase-m-numb 3'-UTR chimera mRNA and Contrast EGFP mRNA in a 3T3 cell was determined from photometry reinforcement (extinction value of 450nm) using the peroxidase, and 3', 3', 5 and a 5'-tetramethyl benzidine.

[0020] (7) It rearranged based on preparation of recombination adenovirus, and an infection experiment pAdex1pCAw vector, and adenovirus Adex-FLAGMsi1 was prepared. The procedure followed as reference mostly (Hasimoto et al., Hum.Gene Ther.7(1996):149-159). The recombination adenovirus stock (Adex-FLAGMsi1, 3x10<sup>10</sup> PUF/ml; Adex-NLLacZ, 3x10<sup>10</sup> PUF/ml) of a high potency came to hand, and it was kept at -80 degrees C. NIH The adenovirus solution diluted 1000 times was infected with the 3T3 cell (2.5x10<sup>6</sup> cells) in Dulbecco alteration Eagle's-medium 5 ml containing 5% of fetal calf serum. The cell was dissolved two days after by lysis buffer (Buckanovich et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 17 (1999):3194-3201), analysis by Western blot was performed by the approach of reference (Kaneko et al., Dev.Neurosci., 22 (2000):138-152), and analysis by the Northern blot and the sucrose density-gradient centrifugation method was performed continuously. The Numb polyclonal antibody for a fowl of the rabbit which recognizes the amino acid sequence completely saved as an epitope in the protein of a mouse and a fowl (Wakamatsu et al. and Neuron 23 (1999):71-81) (affinity purification), the anti-FLAG-M2 mouse monoclonal antibody (Sigma), and the anti-tubulin mouse monoclonal antibody (Sigma clone number one A2) performed the immuno blot in the skim milk which diluted to 1:500, 1:1000, and 1:1000, respectively and was diluted with phosphate-buffered saline to 3%. Each immunoreactivity was detected by diaminobenzidine. The quantum of the signal was carried out by the NIH Image program (version 1.62, NIH).

[0021] (8) The quantum total RNA of RNA by the Northern blot is NIH with which Adex-FLAGMsi1 was infected by the above-mentioned approach using a Trizol reagent (Gibco BRL). It extracted from the 3T3 cell and was made to precipitate by ethanol. This RNA was moved to the Hybond N+ nylon membrane (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), after migrating by morpholino propane sulfonic-acid-formaldehyde-agarose gel, and the hybrid was made to form by using 32P indicator m-numb cDNA and cDNA of beta actin as a probe. The film (Kodak) for XAR autoradiography detected the hybridization signal, and it carried out the quantum by BAS5000 (Fuji). The ratio of the signal of mRNA of a m-numb gene to the hybridization signal of the beta

actin mRNA was computed, and it considered as the amount of criteria of the mRNA level of a m-numb gene. The average was computed by having conducted two independent experiments. [0022] (9) The sucrose density-gradient centrifugation method sucrose density-gradient centrifugation method was performed by the approach of reference (Sioni et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 16 (1996):3825-3832). NIH with which Adex-FLAGMsi1 was infected by the above-mentioned approach Centrifugal [ of the 373 cell ] was carried out, they were collected, cold phosphate-buffered saline washed, and it re-suspended in the buffer solution A (10mM potassium acetate, 2mM magnesium acetate, 1mM dithiothreitol, 5mM HEPES [pH7.3], 2microg [ml] leupeptin, 2microg [ml] pepstatin, 0.5% aprotinin), and put for 10 minutes into ice. The cell was crushed through the needle, centrifugal was carried out for 10 minutes by 2500g, and a pellet and supernatant liquid were obtained. The latter was named the cytoplasm solution. KCl concentration was adjusted to 100mM(s) at this time. The cytoplasm solution dissolved in the linear-model sucrose density gradient (5 - 30%) solution containing the leupeptin of 100mM KCl, 10mM potassium acetate, 2mM magnesium acetate, 1mM dithiothreitol, 5mM HEPES [pH7.3], and 2microp ml g, the pepstatin of 2microp ml g, and 0.5% of aprotinin. This solution was set on Hitachi P40St1286 rotor, and it carried out centrifugal at 4 degrees C for 150 minutes by 40000rpm. Fractions were collected from the topmost part of inclination after centrifugal using piston gradient hula KUSHO Noether (Biocomp, Inc.) (300microp one fraction l). 30microl was used for analysis by the Western blot technique about a part for a stroke. A254 was measured, after extracting RNA from the fraction using the phenol and setting it by ethanol.

[0023] (10) In order to measure HES1 promoter's trans activity-ized trial HES1 promoter activity The pHES1p-luciferase (Jarriault et al., Nature, 377 (1995):355-358) independence of 0.2microg. What added pEF-BOS-FCDN1 (Notch1 intracellular field manifestation plasmid [FCDN [1.] and aa 1747-2531]) (Nofziger et al., Development, 126 (1999): 1699-1702) of 0.025microg to this. Or the thing which combined pEF-BOSneo-R218H (Kato et al., Development, 124 (1997):4133-4141) with pCDNA3-3-HamNumb in various amount. Or it is NIH about what changed the amount and combined pCDNA3-HamNumb of 1microg. It introduced into the 3T3 cell. Under the present circumstances, the SV40-LacZ fusion gene of 100ng or Renilla luciferase vector pRL-TK for contrast of 20ng(s) (Toyo Ink) was used as an internal standard about each introductory format. The independent experiment was conducted 3 times. 48 hours after introducing luciferase activity, it was measured in the RUMINO meter Lumat LB9507 (Berthold), and it was standardized to beta galactosidase activity or Renilla luciferase activity.

[0024] B. Result (1) Since the RNA array which serves as a target of the in vitro selection Msi1 of high compatibility RNA ligand to Msi1 was specified, RNA selection (SELEX) based on affinity elution was performed. The RNA pool which carried out 32P indicator was compounded by in vitro using the oligonucleotide library which amplified the imperfect random arrangement of 50 nucleotides by PCR used as mold. The compound RNA pool was added to the affinity column made from nickel which made Msi1 fusion protein Msi1-2TR absorb beforehand. A histidine tag contains T7 tag in the amino terminal other than two tandem RRM mold (Burd et al., EMBO J., 13 (1994):1197-1204) RNA joint domains (RBD) (aa 17-192) at a C terminal again at Msi1-2TR (drawing 1). After removing RNA which was washed and was not combined with Msi1-2TR fusion protein, Msi1-2TR fusion protein-RNA complex was eluted in the buffer solution containing 1M imidazole. The elution profile of first time selection is shown in drawing 1 B. The elution of RNA and protein counted activity, and performed SDS-PAGE, and it carried out monitoring, respectively (drawing 2). United RNA was extracted after each cycle and the first cDNA chain was obtained after reverse transcription using the reverse primer for SELEX. cDNA which carries out the code of the selected RNA array was amplified by PCR, and was again used as mold of the following joint cycle and the RNA biosynthesis for magnification. By repeating affinity RNA-ligand selection, going up to 60% became clear from 0.2% [ in / in the RNA fraction combined with Msi1 / an initial RNA pool ] after 8 times of selection cycles (drawing 3). The RNA pool where the RNA array strongly combined with Msi1 in the above procedure is included in high concentration was obtained.

[0025] Next, the array of 50 independent cDNA clones obtained in 8 times of selection cycles was determined, and the RNA consensus sequence which Msi1 combines based on the

information was specified (drawing 4). 20 typical clones are shown in drawing 4. Continuation of short U of one to 6 base which inserts A or AG into any clone was seen. The same array corresponding to consensus was seen about other 30 clones which are not shown here, the part overlapped and the same RNA array as some clones mentioned to drawing 4 was accepted. The UnAGU motif was accepted especially (G/A) in most selection clones (n when [ The underline section of drawing 4; ] it is many 1-3). The array which is rich in a uridine was repeated 2 to 3 times in many cases. As for the count of an appearance of U (n), for n= 3, n= 4 was [ n= 1 / n= 2 / n= 5 ] 2% 5% 21% 40% 31%. In many cases, the array was seen by the interesting thing in the loop-formation field of stem loop structure (drawing 5). This was predicted by the array analysis software (DNasis, HitachiSoftware Engineering Inc) of marketing based on the Zuker-Stiegler method.

[0026] (2) In order to investigate in detail that an RNA-protein joint test iteration (G/A) UnAGU motif is an array indispensable to a Msi1-RNA interaction, the joint trial was performed for Msi1-2TR fusion protein and the array corresponding to the clone-selection consensus motif selected [ most ] using two pieces or the RNA array of S8-13 and S8-19(drawing 6 A)- included three pieces, respectively. 4 The Msi1-2TR protein of the indicator RNA of fmol and various amounts was kept warm, and it analyzed by the gel shifting method. The number of the delay bands accepted by each trial was in agreement with the consensus sequence motif (G/A) UnAGU seen by the selection clone and the corresponding number of arrays. There are two consensus motifs in S8-13 RNA, and there are three motifs in S8-19RNA. RNA named NC-4 in which Msi1 protein does not include a selection consensus sequence has not been recognized (drawing 6 A). In order to investigate whether Msi1 protein combines with Selection RNA specifically, the contention joint trial was performed using the non-indicator RNA including a nonspecific contention array without a Msi1 selection consensus sequence or a perfect consensus sequence (drawing 6 B). The 32P indicator RNA of 4fmol(s) (S8-13 or S8-19) was analyzed by the gel shifting method after the non-indicator RNA of the Msi1 protein of 100fmol(s), and a 10 and a 100 or 1000 time excessive amount, and incubation (it corresponds to the lanes 13-15 of drawing 6 B, lanes 18-20, lanes 23-25, and lanes 28-30, respectively). The reinforcement of the delay band in which protein-RNA complex is shown was decreased by adding the superfluous non-indicator RNA which contains Msi1 recognition sequence (the same array as Indicator RNA) as a contention array. However, this reinforcement was decreased even if it added RNA which does not contain Msi1 recognition sequence (NC-4). It turned out that RNA which includes the array corresponding to the consensus sequence which Msi1 protein chose by invitro from the above result is recognized specifically. The binding affinity of a selection RNA array to Msi1 was determined from the reinforcement of the delay band in which RNA-Msi1 complex in the gel shifting method is shown. A dissociation constant Kd is equal to the protein concentration which 50% of RNA combines. On the lane 4 and lane 9 of drawing 6 A, it became clear from evaluation by the densitometry that 50% of RNA has combined with protein. Kd was computed with about 4 nM(s) about S8-13 and S8-19. Therefore, it turned out that Msi1 combines with a consensus sequence motif and RNA including a corresponding array with high compatibility.

[0027] (3) Msi1 in vitro and in vivo looked for the candidate of a down-stream target gene cluster to joint Msi1 protein with mRNA of a m-numb gene based on the in vitro selection test result. Since it is strongly discovered by the undifferentiated neuron precursor cell, Msi1 has high possibility that mRNA of the gene cluster which adjusts nerve differentiation (forward or negative) is in the label-lower stream of a river of Msi1. The m-numb gene which carries out the code of the Notch antagonist can be said to be the candidate of a Msi1 target gene from the next fact. In the first place, the consensus sequence motif of Msi1 association is contained in 3' non-translated field of mRNA of a m-numb gene (UTR). The field which a m-numb gene discovers to the second overlaps the field which msi1 gene discovers by the neuroepithelial cell of the ventricle band of a neural tube. m-numb participates [ third ] in accommodation of neurone differentiation.

[0028] Msi1 is 3' of mRNA of a m-numb gene at in vitro. - It investigated about whether it combines with UTR. Each part (N1, N2, N3) of mRNA of a m-numb gene was compounded by in vitro under existence of biotin-14 CPT for this purpose (drawing 7). It was thought that Msi1

binding site was in N2. 2 for N combining ability was investigated for three sorts, the Msi1 protein of perfect length, the compaction mold protein (Msi1-2TR used for SELEX) containing two tandems RBD of Msi1, and the compaction mold protein containing the C terminal part of Msi1, (drawing 9 and 10). As for perfect length Msi1 protein and Msi1-2TR, it turned out that it combines with N2 with the ionic strength (150mM NaCl) of whenever [near a physiological environment / middle ] (drawing 10). [35S] While the Msi1 protein of perfect length which carried out the indicator by the methionine coprecipitated with the bead combined with N2, as for N1 and N3 part of RNA of m-numb, an interaction was not seen between the Msi1 protein of perfect length (drawing 8). When UV bridge formation trial was performed, it became clear that Msi1-2TR combines only with N2, and it was indicated to be the perfect length Msi1 that both compaction mold protein (Msi1-2TR) containing two tandems RBD combined with N2 field strongly within 3-UTR of mRNA of a m-numb gene in vitro. Therefore, it became clear that mRNA of a m-numb gene might be the target of the Msi1 protein in vivo.

[0029] Msi1 is 3' of mRNA of a numb gene. - The approach of reference was used in order to judge whether it combines with UTR by in vivo (Buckanovich et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 17 (1997):3194-3201, Levine et al., Mol.Cell.Biol., 13 (1993):349-3504, Steltz et al., Methods Enzymol., 180 (1989):468-481). NIH which introduced a series of Msi1 expression vectors beforehand Msi1-RNA complex was settled from the 3T3 cell solution (drawing 11). NIH In a 3T3 cell, although a m-numb gene is discovered immanent, Msi1 is not discovered. Then, Msi1 protein which attached the HAT tag (drawing 12) - This is NIH. - combined with Talon metal chelation affinity resin (Clontech) very alternatively within a 3T3 cell was introduced, the manifestation was guided (drawing 12), and Msi1 with a HAT tag investigated whether it would combine with mRNA of a m-numb gene. The cell solution originating in the cell introduced in the above-mentioned procedure was added to Talon metal chelation affinity resin (Clontech), and Msi1-RNA complex was refined. Next, the phenol extracted RNA combined with Msi1 protein with a HAT tag, and it amplified by PCR using the specific primer in beta actin gene (it is used as an internal standard) discovered in large quantities by the cell strain of a m-numb gene or many after reverse transcription. Although the (reverse transcription RT)-PCR product of RNA combined with Msi1 protein with a HAT tag was able to obtain the primer for m-numb genes at the time of use, it was not accepted at the time of the primer use for beta actin genes (drawing 13 and rain H [RT (+)]). In order to clarify the requirement in RNA association of Msi1 protein, the combining ability for RNA of internality m-numb was investigated also about variant (63 F->L, 65 F->L, 68 F->L) Msi1 protein FLAG-Msi1mutR1-HAT (drawing 11) which permuted three aromatic amino acid indispensable to RNA association. Consequently, in variant Msi1 protein (FLAG-Msi1mutR1-HAT), association to mRNA of m-numb was not seen (drawing 13, Lane A), but that RNA of m-numb is held on affinity resin meant that it was required for the RNA combining ability of Msi1 protein. As another control test, it is NIH about Msi1 protein FLAG-Msi1 (drawing 11) without a HAT affinity tag. When it was made discovered by the 3T3 cell and the same joint trial was performed, it was undetectable that mRNA of m-numb is held on resin (drawing 13, Lane F). It is shown that Msi1 combines the above result by RNA and in vivo of m-numb of internality.

[0030] (4) m-numb gene expression control by Msi1 (a manifestation and reporter assay of internality m-Numb)  
In order that Msi1 protein may investigate a \*\*\*\*\* operation to an internality m-Numb protein manifestation, a recombination adenovirus vector is used, and it is NIH about Msi1. It was made unusually discovered by the 3T3 cell (drawing 14 and 15). NIH Adex-FLAGMsi1 or Adex-NLacZ adenovirus was infected with the 3T3 cell under conditions nonpoisonous into a cell. When Adex-FLAGMsi1 vector was infected, Msi1 protein with the FLAG tag of the amount of high in the bottom of control of the CAG promoter who is a fusion promoter of a cytomegalovirus (CMV)-IE enhancer and a qualification fowl beta actin promoter was discovered. Since the Msi1 manifestation did not influence the manifestation level of tubulin, it made tubulin the internal standard, and Msi1 evaluated the \*\*\*\*\* operation on the manifestation level of m-Numb protein. When Msi1 was made to discover superfluously, compared with the level in the reference cell to which internality m-Numb protein level infects Adex-NLacZ with, and discovers LacZ, it fell 32% (drawing 14 and 15). However, even if the mRNA level of an internality m-numb gene

made Msi1 and LacZ discover unusually, it did not change (drawing 14 and 15). The above result shows that Msi1 protein controls the translate phase of a m-Numb protein manifestation. [0031] Next, in order to investigate the device in which Msi1 protein adjusts the manifestation of a target sequence by in vivo, the reporter assay system containing various luciferase synthetic genes was built. NIH to which Msi1 has not discovered the luciferase reporter plasmid of a firefly, and the Msi1 manifestation plasmid immanent Cotransduction was temporarily carried out to the 3T3 cell. The whole 3'-UTR of 1.4kbs of a m-numb gene and the connected luciferase reporter gene were put under an SV40 promoter's control (drawing 16). The quantum of the manifestation level of a reporter gene was carried out based on the luminescence level of luciferase. Wild type msi1 gene and its non-RNA joint variant (msi1mutR1) were put under a CMV promoter's control. As shown in drawing 17, the enzyme activity level of luciferase fell to the dosage dependence target under existence of the wild type Msi1 made to introduce and discover. This and a contrast target were not permitted the fall of luciferase enzyme level by Msi1mutR1 lacking in RNA avidity (drawing 17). Moreover, it is 3' of m-numb to a reporter gene. - A thing without UTR, and 3' of a m-numb gene - When it combined with UTR and the reverse sense and Msi1 binding site was removed, the wild type Msi1 did not fall luciferase reporter activity (drawing 17). Therefore, it turned out that it is placed between control of a reporter gene manifestation by the RNA avidity of Msi1.

[0032] It seems that moreover, Msi1 controls it by the translate phase rather than that adjusts the manifestation of the 3'-UTR chimera reporter gene of a luciferase-m-numb gene on the RNA level of a steady state. In the quantum of RNA by the Northern blot, it has become clear from each trial that the rise of the msi1 gene-product level in NIH 3 T3 does not influence the relative amount of the reporter-numb gene 3'-UTR fusion mRNA (drawing 18).

[0033] NIH with which Adex-FLAGMsi1 was infected about the localization in intracellular [of Msi1 protein ] in order to investigate further possibility that control by the translate phase by Msi1 protein will take place. The cytoplasm solution of a 3T3 cell was investigated by dissociating by the linear-model sucrose density gradient (5 - 30%). Based on A254 of each fraction, ribosome and a ribosomal subunit were observed as a size marker. The total RNA was extracted from each fraction and the classification of a ribosomal subunit checked it. The existence of Msi1 protein judged each fraction by Western blot using the anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody. Msi1 protein moved to the location corresponding to a polysome, 80S monosome, 60S ribosomal subunit, and 40S ribosomal subunit under existence of MgCl2 of 2mM(s) (drawing 19). It is shown that Msi1 protein combines this result with ribosome directly or indirectly.

[0034] When these [ all ] are considered and united, it turns out that mRNA of a m-numb gene is label one in in vivo of Msi1. Msi1 is 3' of mRNA of a m-numb gene. - It couples directly with UTR and the manifestation of m-Numb protein is controlled by the translate phase.

[0035] (5) In order to investigate the biological significance of the manifestation control in the translate phase of the m-numb gene by the potentiation Msi1 protein of Msi1 to the activity of Notch signal transduction, HES1 promoter was used and luciferase reporter assay was performed. There are two RBP-Jkappa binding sites in a very short HES1 promoter array, and a transformer is activated with induction of Notch signal transduction. Installation of Msi1 raised HES1 promoter activity a little (drawing 20 (5.1 times [ a ground state to ] as many activation as this)). This slight upper part control by Msi1 can be interpreted as what is depended on activation of Internality Notch. Trans activity-ization of the intracellular domain (FCDN1) of Notch1 which is one of the dominant active types of Notch is NIH about Msi1. It examined how it would change by introducing into a 3T3 cell. When the activation mold of Notch1 was made to discover independently, HES1 promoter was activated 24.5 times compared with the ground state (drawing 20). This activation does not have a binding site to DNA which serves as a target, but is checked with the manifestation of the RBP-Jkappa dominant control mold (R218H, DN-RBP-Jkappa of drawing 20) which bars activation of Notch signal transduction. Moreover, when Msi1 is introduced and it was made discovered with a Notch1 dominant active type, HES1 promoter's activity rose further 2.7 times to the activation caused by Notch1 independent one of a dominant activation mold (drawing 20 (66 times as much activation as basic level)). The manifestation of Msi1 found out raising HES1 promoter activity in multiplication with the activity

of Notch1 of a dominant active type (drawing 20). Enhancement of luciferase reporter activity with HES1 promoter by Msi1 is controlled even if it makes DN-RBP-Jkappa discover (drawing 20). Therefore, it is thought that induction of HES1 promoter by Msi1 is based on activation of the Notch signal transduction through a DN-RBP-Jkappa dependency path. It turned out that trans activity-ization of HES1 promoter by Notch1 is checked by the superfluous manifestation of m-Numb protein on the other hand (drawing 21). It is NIH if these [all] are considered and united. m-Numb is [that the dystopia-superfluous manifestation of Msi1 in a 3T3 cell reduces the m-Numb protein level of internality, without influencing mRNA level (drawing 14 and 15), and ] NIH. It turns out that it acts as an antagonist of Notch signal transduction in a 3T3 cell (drawing 21). Therefore, Msi1 controlled m-Numb by the translate phase, and is concerned with activation of Notch signal transduction through the RBP-Jkappa dependency path.

[0036] (6) Compound and refine antisense PNAmis2 asPNA with a conventional method at PE Biosystem. The array of mis2 asPNA is in agreement with a translation initiation codon (5'CTCATAGCGAGCC3' - Lys) or a coding region (5'ACCTAATACCTTTATCT3' - Lys). In order to prevent the self-association of PNA (Aldrian-Herrada et al., Nac.Acids.Res.26 (1998):615-621), the lysine was added at 3' edge. These two asPNAs(es) have the same operation as new loss fair formation.

[0037] (7) Culture of new loss fair (culture of a neural stem cell)  
Production of the basal medium containing standard technique [of new loss fair formation and differentiation assay] and EGF 20ng/ml and bFGF 10ng/ml followed the approach (Nakamura et al., J.Neurosci.20(2000):283-293) as stated above. That is, the cell like the first portion of the telencephalon of E14.5 was used for primary agglomerate (primary sphere) formation (5x105 cells / 5ml / well, 6 well plate) in which a neural stem cell carries out self-renewal and which it produces. When the cell of primary agglomerate was divided into each cell, mis2 asPNA of the amount (0-10microM) currently illustrated to the culture medium at (drawing 24) was added, and the cell was moved and cultivated on the plate for secondary conglobation (500 cells / 200microl / well, 96 well plate). The number of secondary agglomerate was counted four days after the passage. The cell used for half-quantitative RT-PCR and immunocytochemistry-analysis of Msi2 was collected after 24-hour processing by mis2 asPNA of 20microM.

[0038] (8) The cells which added half-quantitative RT-PCRmis2 asPNA or incubated for 24 hours, without adding were collected (1.5x105 pieces). After it processed all RNA isolated using the TRIzol reagent (Gibco-BRL) by DNaseI (Gibco-BRL) and it compounded the 1st chain (first-strand) cDNA using SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Gibco-BRL), it was processed by RNase H (Takara). An PCR reaction mis2 (the 5' primer 5' GTCTGGAAACACAGTAGTGAA3' and 3' primer 5' -GTAGCCTTGCCATAGTTGC3' and 340bp) and g3pdh () [5' primer 5'ACCACAGTCCATGCATCAC3'] And 3' primer 5'TCCACCACCTGTTGCTGTA3' and the primer set of 452bp are used, and it is Extaq. By DNA polymerase (Takara) It is 35 or 38 cycle \*\*\*\*\* about denaturation (for 94 degrees C and 45 seconds), annealing (for 54 degrees C and 1 minute) of a primer, and a DNA expanding reaction (for 72 degrees C and 2 minutes). The amount of Mold cDNA was scaled according to the amount of g3pdh used as an internal standard gene. 33 cycle repeat \*\*\*\*\* of PCR was carried out for the cDNA sample diluted continuously using the g3pdh primer set. The upper experiment was repeated 3 times using the cell sample adjusted 3 times independently. It dissociated by the electrophoresis using polyacrylamide gel 5%, and it visualized after dyeing using the FMBIO II multi-view (Takara) by SYBR Green (Takara), and the quantum of the PCR product was carried out.

[0039] In order to consider the intervention of the protein of the Msi family to the function of a CNS stem cell directly, it was thought that the duplex knock out of two genes of Musashi1 and Musashi2 was significant. It added to the CNS stem cell culture which prepared the antisense compound specific in mis2 gene for such a purpose from a msi1-/-germ or litter, and the number of the obtained new loss fairs was measured. The antisense oligonucleotide of the initiation field of mis2 or a coding region (16 or 17mer(s)) was compounded as PNA (mis2 asPNA). PNA is a DNA structure analog new type which makes the peptide of isomorphism a frame, and for this reason, the array singularity to Targets DNA and RNA is high, it is extremely stable to a protease and nuclease, and cytotoxicity is low further. When the cultured cell originating in a fetus

forebrain was medicated with mis2 asPNA, as shown by the half-quantitative RT-PCR analysis and immunocytochemistry-detection about Msi2 antibody (drawing 22, 23), the fall [that mis2 manifestation is specific and Tsuguaki] arose on the level of both transcript and protein. In the msi1-/-cultured cell, when new loss fair formation assay was performed under existence of mis2 asPNA, it correlated with the dosage of mis2 asPNA and an intense reduction of new loss fair formation was accepted clearly (drawing 24). Contrary to this, by the wild type cultured cell, since new loss fair was normally formed also under existence of mis2 asPNA, the knowledge that the new loss fair organization potency and the viability force of a CNS stem cell of a wild type were not influenced under existence of mis2 asPNA of fixed concentration at least by control by mis2 independent ones was established. If all knowledge is taken into consideration, both Msi1 and Msi2 have achieved the function important for growth and/or maintenance of a germ CNS stem cell. It is thought that such a function is assigned to these two genes. On the other hand, by the CNS stem cell after the birth, these functions are considered to mainly be rather carried out by Msi1 rather than Msi2.

[0040]

[Effect of the Invention] The new function of the Musashi protein was solved by this invention.

That is, since the Musashi protein controls the manifestation of Numb protein which has a neurone differentiation accommodation machine and reinforces the activity of a Notch signal transduction system, it can be used as a remedy of various central nervous system diseases, and it can be further used also as a growth activity enhancement agent of a neural stem cell.

[0041]

[Layout Table]

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[Translation done.]



## \* NOTICES \*

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- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

## DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

- [Drawing 1] It is the schematic drawing of the domain structure of fusion Msi1 protein Msi1-2TR (what was used for selection of the optimum RNA array which Msi1 combines) made to discover with perfect length Msi1 protein and bacteria.
- [Drawing 2] It is drawing showing association of Msi1-2TR protein and Association RNA.
- [Drawing 3] In each selection process, it is drawing having shown activity for the rate of the association RNA in the used total RNA against the index.
- [Drawing 4] It is drawing showing the array of RNA by Msi1 selection.
- [Drawing 5] It is drawing showing the typical secondary structure of the RNA array chosen by Msi1. (The part which gave the shadow shows a selected array.)
- [Drawing 6] (Analysis A) [0 fmol by the gel shifting method of Msi1 protein (lanes 1, 6, and 11), 1fmol (lanes 2, 7, and 12), 10 fmol (lanes 3, 8, and 13). Independently the indicator RNA of contention RNA joint (trial B) [4fmol using 100 fmol (lanes 4, 9, and 14) and 1000 fmol (lanes 5, 10, and 15)] and the non-indicator RNA (Lanes 16, 21, 26, and 31). Moreover, Msi1-2TR protein of 10 fmol and 0 fmol (lanes 17, 22, 27, and 32). Incubation] is shown with the non-indicator RNA of 40 fmol (lanes 18, 23, 28, and 33), 400 fmol (lanes 19, 24, 29, and 34), and 4000 fmol (lanes 20, 25, 30, and 35).
- [Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the structure of a numb gene. (An arrow head shows the field where (N1, N2, N3) are imprinted according to an individual by in vitro.) The wedge mark of a lengthwise direction shows a field including the array (UAGGUAGUAGUUUA) considered to be Msi1 junction sequence.
- [Drawing 8] 3' of mRNA of a m-numb gene - A joint trial with the Msi1 protein to various transcripts originating in UTR is shown. N1 and N3 are RNA of a m-numb gene. (-) is a lane which does not contain RNA which carried out the indicator by the biotin. The part of the rectangle of a right-hand side photograph shows the total amount of protein obtained by one trial.
- [Drawing 9] It is the schematic drawing of Msi1 fusion protein. The compaction mold protein with which C contains the C terminal part of a mouse Msi1 for the compaction mold protein (Msi1-2TR) with which F includes the field where, as for R, two RNA joint domains arranged in parallel the mouse Msi1 of perfect length is shown.
- [Drawing 10] It is drawing showing association with the Msi1 protein (F) of perfect length and compaction mold Msi1-2TR protein (it is used for R and SELEX), and N2RNA containing selection Msi1 junction sequence.
- [Drawing 11] It is the schematic drawing of Msi1 protein FLAG-Msi1-HAT(H) FLAG-Msi1mutR1-HAT(A) and FLAG-Msi1 (F). The HAT tag in a C terminal is an affinity tag for making it combine with Talon resin (Clontech). FLAG-Msi1mutR1-HAT is the non-RNA joint mold of Msi1 which permuted the amino acid of the RNA joint domain of an amino terminal.
- [Drawing 12] NIH It is drawing showing the result of having analyzed the affinity precipitate through a HAT tag as the manifestation of the Msi1 protein H, A, and F in a 3T3 cell by the immuno blot using an anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody.
- [Drawing 13] It is drawing showing the in vivo RNA joint trial which combined RT-PCR and

affinity settling. The lane of RT (-) is contrast at the time of checking that RT-PCR is an RNA dependency. A right panel is a magnification control test for checking the fidelity of the primer using RT product originating in the initial extract of Saki who does mixed coexistence with affinity resin. Rain H=FLAG-Msi1-HAT, rain F=FLAG-Msi1, rain A=FLAG-Msi1mutR1-HAT. [Drawing 14] It is drawing showing the dystopia-superfluous manifestation of Msi1 by recombination adenovirus, the analysis by the immuno blot of m-Numb protein, and analysis by the Northern blot.

[Drawing 15] It is drawing showing the relative amount of mRNA (black bar) of m-Numb protein (white bar) and a m-numb gene.

[Drawing 16] 3' of Msi1 effector and a m-numb gene - And UTR is included, it is a reporter's schematic drawing. Alpha-pcDNA 3-T7msi1, beta-pcDNA 3-T7msi1mutR1 (alpha and beta were put under control of the promoter of CMV). a=pGVP2-numb3' - UTR, b=pGV-p2, c=pGVP2-reversed numb3' - UTR (a, b, and c were put under control of the promoter of SV40).

[Drawing 17] It is drawing showing luciferase reporter assay.

[Drawing 18] Reporter's mRNA relative level which carried out the quantum by the Northern ELISA method is shown. The mRNA level of the transcript of EGFP without Msi1 bonding site was used as internal contrast on mRNA. The ratio (% to contrast) (standard error of the average of three independent experiments and an average) of the amount of chimera mRNA(s) and the amount of EGFP mRNA showed.

[Drawing 19] NIH The sucrose density gradient profile of the Msi1 protein containing the ribosomal particle in the cytoplasm fractionation of a 3T3 cell is shown. A curve shows A254 of each fraction, the ribosomal particle of 40S, 60S, and 80S, and the location of a polysome. A lower panel shows the result of analysis by the immunity detecting method of FLAG-Msi1 protein for having used the anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody.

[Drawing 20] The relation between Msi1 manifestation and activation of HES1 promoter by Notch1 is shown.

[Drawing 21] The relation between an overNumb manifestation and activation of HES1 promoter by Notch1 is shown.

[Drawing 22] It is drawing showing the judgment quantitative RT-PCR analysis result of msi2 and contrast g3pdh mRNA in (-) under (+) and nonexistence under existence of msi2 asPNA.

[Drawing 23] They are the operation which msi2 asPNA does to a Msi2 protein manifestation, and drawing visualized with the immunocytochemistry-signal about Msi2 antibody.

[Drawing 24] It is drawing showing a number of new loss fair originating in msi1-/- and wild type litter under existence of msi2 asPNA of comparisons.

[Translation done.]

(19)日本国特許庁 (JP)		(12) 公開特許公報 (A)		(11)特許出願公開番号	
				特開2002-371005	
				(P2002-371005A)	
				(43)公開日 平成14年12月26日(2002.12.26)	

(5)IntCl. <sup>1</sup>	機配記号	FI	チート・ド(参考)
A 61 K 38/00		A 61 K 48/00	4 B 0 2 4
A 61 P 48/00		A 61 P 25/00	1 0 1 4 B 0 6 5
A 61 P 25/00	1 0 1	43/00	1 0 5 4 C 0 8 4
43/00	1 0 5	C 0 7 K 14/47	4 H 0 4 5
C 1 2 N 15/09	ZNA	A 61 K 37/02	

(21)出願番号	特願2001-164412(P2001-164412)	(71)出願人	395020800
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(54)【発明の名称】 MusashiによるNumbタンパク質発現抑制剤

(57)【要約】

【解決手段】  $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNumbタンパク質発現抑制剤。

【効果】 本発明により $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質の新たな機能が解明された。すなわち、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質はニューロン分化調節を有するNumbタンパク質の発現を抑制し、またNotch情報伝達系の活性を増強するので各種中枢神経系疾患の治療薬として利用できる。

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】  $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNumbタンパク質発現抑制剤。

【請求項2】  $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNotch情報伝達系増強剤。

【請求項3】  $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とする神経幹細胞増殖活性増強剤。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】 【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明はニューロン分化調節機能やNotch拮抗作用を有するNumbタンパク質の発現を抑制し、Notch情報伝達系の活性に基づき疾患の治療薬として有用な薬品及び神経幹細胞増殖活性増強剤に関する。

【0002】 【従来の技術及び発明が解決しようとする課題】 Numbタンパク質 (Wakamatsu et al., Neuron 23(1999):71-81) は哺乳類中枢神経細胞幹細胞の自己複製活動に必要なNotchタンパク質のシグナル伝達カスケードを阻害することが知られている (Ohtsuka et al., EMBO J.18(1999):2196-2207及びNakamura et al., J. Neurosci.20(2000):283-293)。

【0003】 としてNotchタンパク質を介した情報伝達系は、神経幹細胞の自己複製および/又は生存等に関与している。

【0004】 【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明者は、哺乳類の中枢神経系の幹細胞に強く発現することが知られている $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質 (Musashi) に着目し、その機能について検討してきたところ、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質がNumbタンパク質の発現を翻訳段階で抑制すること、さらにNotch情報伝達の活性を増進する作用を有し、Notch情報伝達系の活性の増進に基づく疾患の治療薬として有用であることを見出した。また、本発明者は $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質の機能を検討する目的で $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質遺伝子を欠損させた動物を用いて検討したところ、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質が神経幹細胞の増殖活性を増強することを見出し、本発明を完成するに至った。

【0005】 すなわち、本発明は $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有

効成分とするNumbタンパク質発現抑制剤を提供するものである。また本発明は $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNotch情報伝達系増強剤を提供するものである。また、本発明は、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とする神経幹細胞増殖活性増強剤を提供するものである。

【0006】

【発明の実施の形態】 本発明の医薬の有効成分である $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質は、哺乳類の中枢神経系幹細胞で強く発現するRNA結合タンパクである。そして、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質にはMusashi1 (Musashi1又はMs1) 及びMusashi2 (Musashi2又はMs2) の2つがあることが知られている (Sakakibara, S. et al., Dev. Biol. 176(1996):230-242)。これらの $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のうち、 $\Delta$ サシ1 (Ms1) が特に好ましい。

【0007】 これらの $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質は、それが存在する細胞から分離することもできるが、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質をコードする遺伝子でクローニングされているので、DNA組み換え技術、すなわち、当該遺伝子を用いて調製した発現ベクターを利用し、形質転換した細胞を用いて調製してもよい。

【0008】 また $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質は、神経幹細胞で発現している蛋白そのものでもよいが、同様の性質を有する限り、その一部のアミノ酸配列が改変されたものでよい。例えば $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチドも使用し得る。これらの置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入の程度及びその位置は、改変されたアミノ酸配列が $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質と同様の性質を有するものであれば特に制限されない。これらの改変ポリペプチドもまた、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質と同様にDNA組み換え技術により調製できる。

【0009】 また、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質又は上記改変ポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を宿主し、体内で当該蛋白質又は改変ポリペプチドを生産させてもよい。

【0010】 後記実施例に示すように $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質は、哺乳類のNumb遺伝子のmRNAと結合し、Numb遺伝子の発現を翻訳段階で調節し、Numbタンパク質の発現を抑制する。また、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質の発現によって、Numbタンパク質の発現が抑制される結果、Notch情報伝達の活性が増強される。従って、 $\Delta$ サシ蛋白質は、Notch情報伝達系の活性化に基づく疾患、すなわち神経幹細胞の自己複製および/又は生存不全の治療薬として有用である。また、Ms1遺伝子欠損マウス由来の神経幹細胞において、Ms2遺伝子の発現を減弱させると、ニューロスフェア形





(内在性 $\alpha$ -Numbの発現とレポーターアッセイ)

Ms11タンパク質が内在性 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質発現におよぼす作用を調べるために、超換えアデノウイルスベクターを用いてMs11をNIH 3T3細胞で異質に発現させた(図14と15)。NIH 3T3細胞には、Adex-FLAGCMs11またはAdex-N1ac2アデノウイルスを細胞に無毒な条件下で感染させた。Adex-FLAGCMs11ベクターを感染させたところ、サイトメカログキリス(CMG)-IEエンハンサーと修飾ニフトリボアチンアプロモーターの融合プロモーターであるCAプロモーターの制御下で高量のFLAGタグをもつMs11タンパク質が発現した。Ms11発現はチューブリンの発現レベルに影響しなかったことから、チューブリンを内部標準として、 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質の発現レベルにMs11がおよぼす作用を評価した。Ms11を過剰に発現させると、内在性 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質レベルがAdex-N1ac2を感染させた細胞に比べて顕著に低下した(図14と15)。しかし、内在性 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質の減少は、Ms11とLacZを異質に発現させても変わらない(図14と15)。以上の結果から、Ms11タンパク質は、 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質発現の細胞増殖を抑制することがわかる。

【0031】次に、Ms11タンパク質がin vivoで細胞配列の発現を調節する機構を調べるために、多様なリジン-ユアゼ合成遺伝子を含むレポーターアッセイ系を構築した。ポタルのリジン-ユアゼレポータープラスミドとMs11発現プラスミドを、Ms11が内在的に発現していないNIH 3T3細胞に一時的に同時導入した。 $\alpha$ -Numb遺伝子の1.4kbの3'-UTR全体となげたリジンユアゼレポーター-遺伝子融合遺伝子の制御下において(図16)。レポーター-遺伝子の発現レベルは、リジンユアゼの発光レベルを元に定量した。野生型Ms11遺伝子とその非RNA結合変異体(Ms11<sup>lac</sup>)は、CIVプロモーターの制御下に置いた。図17に示すように、リジンユアゼの最終活性レベルは、導入して発現させた野生型Ms11の存在下で用量依存的に低下した。これと対照的に、RNA結合活性を欠くMs11<sup>lac</sup>では、リジンユアゼ酵素レベルの低下は認められなかった(図17)。また、レポーター-遺伝子に $\alpha$ -Numbの3'-UTRがないものや、 $\alpha$ -Numb遺伝子の3'-UTRと逆向きに結合してMs11結合部位を除くと、野生型Ms11はリジンユアゼレポーター活性を低下しない(図17)。したがって、レポーター-遺伝子発現の抑制にはMs11のRNA結合活性が介在することがわかった。

【0032】またMs11は、リジンユアゼ- $\alpha$ -Numb遺伝子の3'-UTRにレポーター-遺伝子の発現を正常状態のRNAレベルで調節するのではなく細胞増殖で抑制する。ノーザンブロットによるRNAの定量は、NIH 3T3におけるMs11遺伝子産物レベルの上昇が、レポーター- $\alpha$ -Numb遺伝子3'-UTR融合mRNAの相対量に影響しないことが各試験から判明している(図18)。

SIプロモーターのトランス活性化 $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質の過剰発現によって阻害されることがわかった(図21)。これらすべてを考えると、NIH 3T3細胞におけるMs11の異質的過剰発現が、内在性の $\alpha$ -Numbタンパク質レベルを、mRNAレベルに影響することなく低下させること(図14と15)と、 $\alpha$ -NumbがNIH 3T3細胞においてNotch情報伝達の拮抗物質として作用することがわかる(図21)。したがってMs11は、 $\alpha$ -Numbを細胞増殖で抑制してRBP-J $\alpha$ 依存性経路を介してNotch情報伝達の活性化にかかわっている。

【0036】(6) アンチセンスPNA  
Ms12 asPNAはPE Biosystems社で増強に合成、精製したものである。Ms12 asPNAの配列は、細胞開始コドン(5'-CTCATACCGACGCG3'-Lys)またはコード領域(5'-ACTCAATCTTATCTG3'-Lys)と一致している。PNA (Aldrich-Herrada et al., *Nuc. Acids. Res.* 26 (1998): 615-621)の自己集合を防ぐためにリジンを3'端に添加した。これらの2つのasPNAはニューロスフェア形成に同様の作用を有している。

【0037】(7) ニューロスフェアの培養(神経細胞の培養)  
ニューロスフェア形成およびアッセイの標準的手法、ならびにEDF 20ng/mlおよびbFGF 10ng/mlを含む基底培地の作製は、既述の方法(Nakamura et al., *J. Neurosci.* 20 (2000): 283-293)に従った。すなわち、神経幹細胞が自己複製して生じる次球塊(precursor sphere)形成(細胞 $5 \times 10^4$ /5ml/ウェル、6ウェルプレート)には、E14.5の胎盤の前半部位の細胞を用いた。1次球塊は、E14.5の胎盤の前半部位の細胞を用いた(図24)。図24に示してある量(0.10  $\mu$ l)のMs12 asPNAを添加し、2次球塊形成用プレート(細胞500個/200  $\mu$ l/ウェル、96ウェルプレート)上に細胞を移し、培養した。取代の4日後に、2次球塊の数を数えた。Ms12の半定量的RT-PCRおよび免疫細胞化学的解析に使用する細胞は、20  $\mu$ lのMs12 asPNAで24時間処理後、採取した。

【0038】(8) 半定量的RT-PCR  
Ms12 asPNAを添加して、または添加せずに24時間インキュベートした細胞を収集した(1.5  $\times 10^6$ 個)。TRIzol試薬(Gibco-BRL)を用いて単離した全RNAはDNaseI (Gibco-BRL)で処理し、第1鎖(first-strand) cDNAをSuperScript II逆転写酵素(Gibco-BRL)を用いて合成した後、Rase H (Takara)で処理した。PCR反応は、Ms12 (5'-プライマー-5'-CTCTCCGACACACTACTGCA3'および3'-プライマー-5'-ACCACTCCATAGCTTGC3'、340bp) およびg3ph (5'-ATGAGCTTCTCCATAGCTTGC3'、340bp) および3'-プライマー-5'-TCCACACCTCTTCTGTA3'、452bp)のプライマーセットを用いて、Extaq DNAポリメラーゼ (Takara) により、変性(94℃、45秒)、アニーリング(72℃、2分)を35または38サイクル繰り返す。鋳型cDNAの量は、内

部標準遺伝子として使用したg3phの量に従って基準化した。逆発現に希釈したcDNAサンプルを、g3phプライマーセットを用いてPCRを33サイクル繰り返して増幅した。柱上に3回精製した細胞サンプルを用いて、上の実験を3回繰り返した。PCR産物を、5%ポリアクリルアミドゲルを用いた電気泳動で分離し、SYBR Green (Takara) により染色後、PBI0 IIマシチビュー (Takara) を用いて可視化を行い、定量化した。

【0039】CNS幹細胞の機能に対するMs11ファミリーのタンパク質の関与を直接検討するために、Musashi1 (Musashi1) 22遺伝子の二重ノックアウトが有意義であると考えられた。こうした目的のために、Ms12遺伝子に特異的なアンチセンス化合物を、Ms11<sup>lac</sup>胚または同胚仔から調製したCNS幹細胞培養基に添加し、得られたニューロスフェアの数を測定した。Ms12の細胞開始領域またはコード領域(16または17mer)のアンチセンスオリゴヌクレオチドをPNAとして合成した(Ms12 asPNA)。PNAは同様のペプチドを骨格とする新しいタイプのDNA構造類似体であり、このため、標的DNAおよびRNAへの配列特異性が高く、プロテアゼおよびヌクレアーゼに対して安定性が高く、さらに細胞毒性が低くなる。胎前初期に由来する培養細胞にMs12 asPNAを投与すると、Ms12抗

体に関する半定量的RT-PCR解析および免疫細胞化学的検出により示されたように(図22、23)、胚芽発育およびタンパク質の両者のレベルでMs12発現の特異的かつ著明な低下が生じた。Ms11<sup>lac</sup>培養細胞において、Ms12 asPNAの存在下でニューロスフェア形成アッセイを行ったところ、Ms12 asPNAの用量に相関して、ニューロスフェア形成の激しい減少が明らかに認められた(図24)。これとは反対に、野生型培養細胞では、Ms12 asPNAの存在下でも正常にニューロスフェアが形成されたことから、野生型のCNS幹細胞のニューロスフェア形成と生存能力は、少なくとも一定濃度のMs12 asPNAの存在下においては、少なからず影響されないという知見が確立された。全ての知見を考えると、Ms11およびMs12の両者は、胚CNS幹細胞の増殖および/または維持に重要な機能を果たしている。こうした機能は、これらの2遺伝子に割り当てられていると考えられる。一方、生後のCNS幹細胞では、これらの機能はMs12よりも、むしろ主としてMs11によって遂行されるものと考えられる。

【0040】  
【発明の効果】本発明によりムサンシ蛋白の新たな機能が解明された。すなわち、ムサンシ蛋白はニューロン分化調節を有するNumbタンパク質の発現を抑制し、またNotch情報伝達系の活性を増強する。このため、Notch情報伝達系の活性を増強して利用でき、さらに神経幹細胞の増殖活性を増強しても利用できる。

【0041】

【配列表】

(9)

16

18

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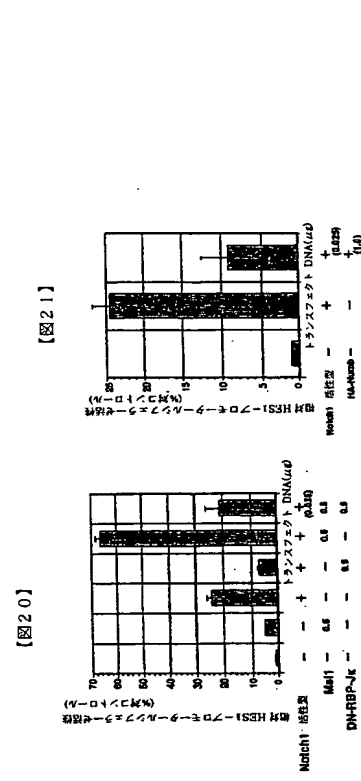
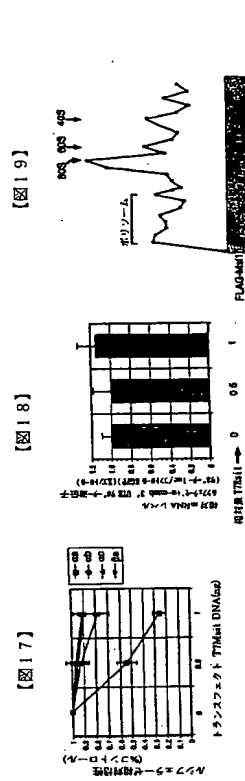
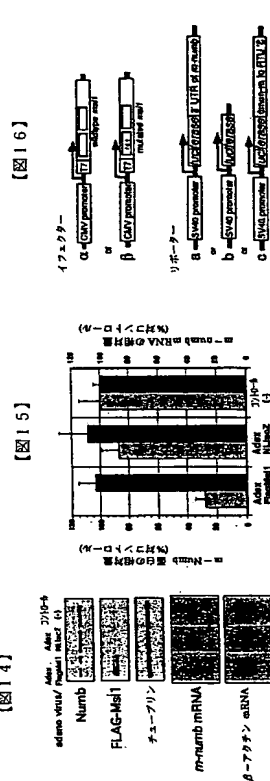
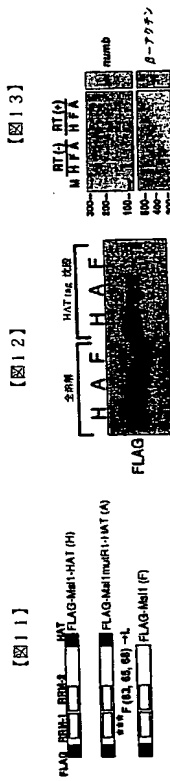
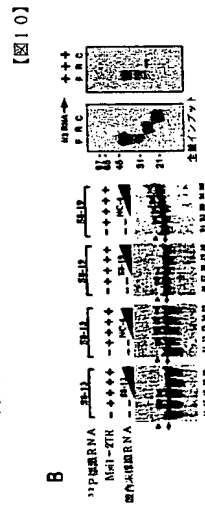
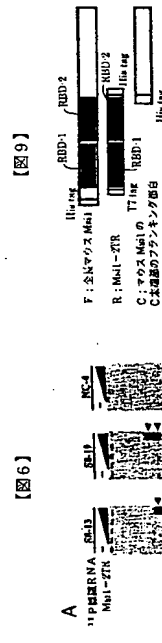
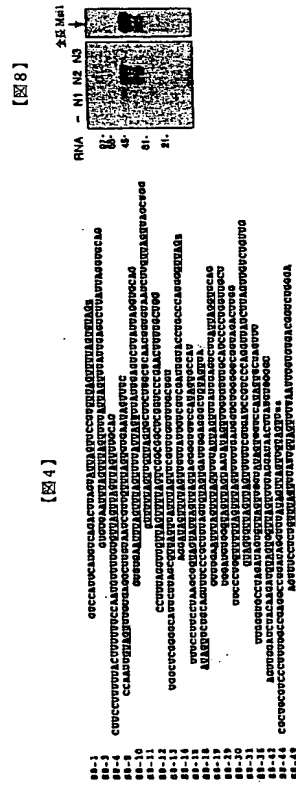
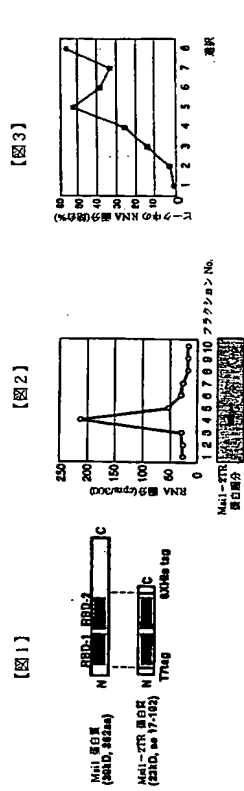
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示す図である。

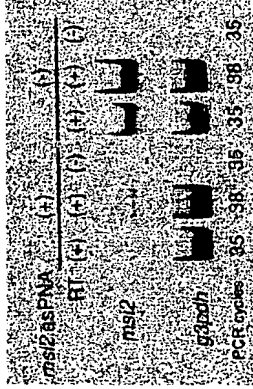




フロントページの続き

(51)Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> // C 07 K 14/47 C 12 N 5/06	識別記号	F I C 12 N 15/00 5/00 Z N A A E	予コード (参考)
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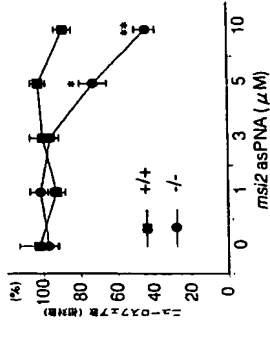
【図22】



【図23】



【図24】



【手続補正書】  
【提出日】平成14年8月16日(2002.8.16)  
【手続補正1】  
【補正対象書類名】明細書  
【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲  
【補正方法】変更  
【補正内容】  
【特許請求の範囲】  
【請求項1】 ムサン蛋白質、ムサン蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNotch情報伝達活性化増強剤。  
【請求項2】 ムサン蛋白質がムサン1 (Musashi1)である請求項1記載のNotch情報伝達活性化増強剤。  
【請求項3】 ムサン蛋白質、ムサン蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とするNotch情報伝達活性化増強剤。  
【請求項4】 ムサン蛋白質がムサン1 (Musashi1)である請求項3記載のNotch情報伝達活性化増強剤。  
【請求項5】 請求項3又は4記載のNotch情報伝達活性化増強剤を有効成分とするNotch情報伝達系の異常に基づく疾患の治療薬。  
【請求項6】 ムサン蛋白質、ムサン蛋白質のアミノ酸配列の1又は複数個が置換、欠失、付加もしくは挿入されたアミノ酸配列を有するポリペプチド、又はそれらのポリペプチドをコードする遺伝子を有効成分とする神経幹細胞増殖活性化増強剤。  
【請求項7】 ムサン蛋白質がムサン1 (Musashi1)である請求項6記載の神経幹細胞増殖活性化増強剤。

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